

**To:** Lacapra, Veronique C.[lacaprav@umsl.edu]; Bryan, David[Bryan.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Mon 4/14/2014 3:26:09 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Location of radioactive waste

A current EPA map – again, *if such a map exists*—would probably not differ much from MDNR's May 2013 map. The temperature readings suggesting presence of the smoldering would be a little farther (but not much farther) to the north into the neck, and by scale, the RIM indications would not be very much farther to the south, beyond the orange hashmarked area already shown on the MDNR map.

Bear in mind: It's a bit disingenuous for any side in this debate to say that any map "shows the fire." What we can show (and interpret) are temperature readings at select points that suggest the location of underground smoldering. With responsible scientific interpretation, those readings can help paint a better picture of where the smoldering is occurring and how it may be changing in intensity, up or down.

The map search continues.

## Chris Whitley

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

11201 Renner Boulevard

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913-551-7394

**From:** Lacapra, Veronique C. [mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 10:17 AM  
**To:** Whitley, Christopher; Bryan, David  
**Subject:** RE: Location of radioactive waste

This does help, thanks Chris.

A map would still be the best way to share this information with the public on our website.

I've been using this MDNR map from last May, which doesn't show the current extent of the underground fire (which has spread into the neck). It's probably also not accurate in terms of the extent of the RIM. And obviously it doesn't show any fencing (the yellow line is "the outline of the Bridgeton Landfill," according to MDNR).

But it's the only map I've got that shows both the RIM and the fire.

Thanks,

Veronique

**Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.**

Science, Environment and Health Reporter

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<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/term/health-science>

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**From:** Whitley, Christopher [<mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 10:09 AM  
**To:** Lacapra, Veronique C.; Bryan, David  
**Subject:** RE: Location of radioactive waste

Veronique,

(Heavy sigh.) Here's my attempt to clarify. I'm not sure that we even have a map already prepared that would clearly delineate for you the locations of all fencing, as well as the most current subsurface temperature readings and the RIM rad measurements that would indicate proximities of underground smoldering, buried rad wastes, fence boundaries, etc. I will make every effort to see if we have such a visual configuration in our haystacks here, and if we do, I will pound on my colleagues to see if we can share it with you.

Meanwhile...let's return to, and allow me to expand a bit upon, the answers that I sent you in the following email, back on March 21:

**From:** Whitley, Christopher [<mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 10:54 AM  
**To:** Lacapra, Veronique C.  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

Got your answers:

1. The RIM detection that we presume AG Koster is referring to is situated less than 100 feet outside the boundary of OU-1, which puts it less than 100 feet inside the boundary of the Bridgeton Landfill's North Quarry Cell. ALL of this material was detected at depth – not at surface—but at depths ranging from 36 to 60 feet below the surface, where it is not posing exposure risk.

OU-1 has its very own boundary fence. Think of that boundary fence as a subset, or an inclusion within, the overall perimeter fence for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site, which also includes the Bridgeton Landfill as its own subset of the site. A portion of the boundary fence for OU-1 also serves as the overall perimeter fence for the site, and another portion of the OU-1 fence separates it from Bridgeton Landfill's North Quarry Cell. Put another way: Think of the WLL site perimeter fence as the boundary of the continental United States. Think of Texas as the Bridgeton Landfill (as I often do, myself), and then think of neighboring Louisiana as the separately fenced OU-1. We believe the RIM detection that AG Koster referred to is situated less than 100 feet beyond the fenced boundary of OU-1 (Louisiana), which means it is less than 100 feet inside the fenced boundary of Bridgeton Landfill's North Quarry Cell (Texas)—which is still behind the perimeter fence of the overall West Lake Landfill Superfund Site (the lower 48 states). Short of a map, this may be my best verbal effort to explain...

2. Based on the best available data, these detections at the far north edge of the Bridgeton Landfill's North Quarry Cell are approximately 900-1,000 feet away from the subsurface smoldering event.

Based on the best available data and assessments by EPA R7 and EPA ORD experts, we continue to believe that the underground smoldering is still at least 900-1,000 feet south of the RIM that was found less than 100 feet inside the boundary of Bridgeton Landfill's South Quarry Cell, which itself is also inside the perimeter fencing for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site.

I hope this helps...

**Chris Whitley**

Public Affairs Specialist

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**From:** Lacapra, Veronique C. [<mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2014 6:35 PM  
**To:** Bryan, David  
**Cc:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Subject:** Re: Location of radioactive waste

I'd love an updated map showing the fence, the extent of radioactive waste, and the most recent mapping of the underground fire.

*Sent from a tiny keyboard*

On Apr 11, 2014, at 6:30 PM, "Bryan, David" <[Bryan.David@epa.gov](mailto:Bryan.David@epa.gov)> wrote:

Veronique –

Obviously we probably should take some time to go over this with you more in depth. It is key that no one mistakenly thinks that the RIM detection was outside of the PERIMETER fence.

Would this be something that you would want Chris to take you step by step through a map so we are right going forward?

Letting Chris know with this email.

Have a nice weekend.

David W. Bryan, APR

Press Officer/Public Affairs Specialist

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**From:** Lacapra, Veronique C. [<mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu>]

**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2014 6:03 PM

**To:** Bryan, David

**Cc:** Whitley, Christopher

**Subject:** Location of radioactive waste

OK, maybe I misinterpreted this. My impression was that the chain link fence went around OU-1 at West Lake.

So I interpreted its being 100 feet inside the Bridgeton Landfill as equivalent to its being 100 feet outside (and south of) the fence.

Is it 100 feet inside the Bridgeton Landfill, as this e-mail says? Or is that incorrect?

**From:** Whitley, Christopher [<mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 10:54 AM

**To:** Lacapra, Veronique C.

**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

Got your answers:

1. The RIM detection that we presume AG Koster is referring to is situated less than 100 feet outside the boundary of OU-1, which puts it less than 100 feet inside the boundary of the Bridgeton Landfill's North Quarry Cell. ALL of this material was detected at depth – not at surface—but at depths ranging from 36 to 60 feet below the surface, where it is not posing exposure risk.
2. Based on the best available data, these detections at the far north edge of the Bridgeton Landfill's North Quarry Cell are approximately 900-1,000 feet away from the subsurface smoldering event.

Still working on the SLOTA availability.

## Chris Whitley

Public Affairs Specialist

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**From:** Lacapra, Veronique C. [<mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 10:06 AM

**To:** Whitley, Christopher

**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

No worries, I've made PLENTY of mistakes.....

Koster said the location of the RIM was based on preliminary data coming out of EPA – so I think you guys would have the most direct knowledge of that, not Koster.

My main question is what's the latest estimate of how close the fire is to the RIM, now that RIM has been found further south than previously thought.

Airtime for SLOTA is noon to 1pm CT.

I'm running to another interview....

**Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.**

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**From:** Whitley, Christopher [<mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 9:55 AM

**To:** Lacapra, Veronique C.

**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

I read you loud, clear and PAINFULLY ashamed on the spelling error. Thanks for the catch.

Likewise, I am busy trying to ferret out answers for you here at EPA on the RIM in the North Quarry issue. Have you pitched those same questions to CHRIS Koster's office, since that was the source that raised the concern?

And I will inquire as to Karl's availability for the live call-in next week. Remind me of the airtime, if you would?

Your humble public servant,

**Chris Whitley**

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. EPA Region 7 Office of Public Affairs

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**From:** Lacapra, Veronique C. [<mailto:lacaprav@umsl.edu>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 9:33 AM

**To:** Whitley, Christopher

**Subject:** RE: EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

**Importance:** High

I meant also to ask about Karl's availability to participate in our live call-in show next week, on either Tuesday (Mar 25) or Thursday (Mar 27)? This would be to discuss issues at the Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills. David Bryan had started to look into Karl's availability for us, while you were out.

And....I would still like an answer to my questions about

(1) How far south of the perimeter fence has RIM been detected?

(2) How far does this mean that the underground fire is from the nearest RIM? We'd been told 1000 feet in the past – I assume now it's something less than that.

Thanks Chris,

Veronique

P.S. CHRIS Koster

**Véronique C. LaCapra, Ph.D.**

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**From:** Chris Whitley [<mailto:whitley.christopher@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2014 8:26 AM

**To:** [vlacapra@stlpublicradio.org](mailto:vlacapra@stlpublicradio.org)

**Subject:** EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill

**EPA Regional Administrator Brooks Responds to Missouri Attorney General Koster on West Lake Landfill Site**

Contact Information: **Chris Whitley, 913-551-7394**, [whitley.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:whitley.christopher@epa.gov)

**Environmental News**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Lenexa, Kan., March 21, 2014) – EPA Regional Administrator Karl Brooks today sent the following letter to Missouri Attorney General Kris Koster:

March 21, 2014

The Honorable Kris Koster

Attorney General of Missouri

P.O. Box 899

Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Koster:

I valued the opportunity to speak with you last week about the need to ensure continued protection of public health at the West Lake Superfund site through effective federal-state partnership. The State of Missouri and the Environmental Protection Agency have been using our respective regulatory and oversight powers to keep holding the responsible parties to their duties: controlling the SSE at Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill, separating the West Lake Landfill from the SSE, and completing selection and implementation of a protective long-term Superfund remedy at West Lake.

As we discussed, Region 7's team of experts continues taking several decisive actions at the West Lake Superfund site. The EPA intends soon to conclude an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to enlist Corps construction expertise for the isolation barrier to separate West Lake from the SSE. I will keep you and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources closely informed about the status of this project. And I concur with your recommendation that you and I promptly take that opportunity to inform the community about isolation barrier construction activities before they begin.

EPA's jurisdiction under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, covers release of hazardous substances wherever they have come to be located. EPA is committed to taking actions that compel the West Lake/Bridgeton PRPs to bear the costs legally required to contain and manage radiologically impacted material (RIM) resulting from the disposal of leached barium sulfate, regardless of where it is located at the site.

EPA's jurisdiction extends to wherever hazardous substances are located within the landfill complex. We will of course, closely cooperate with your office and the MDNR to align CERCLA work with PRP duties compelled by your Order at Bridgeton. I assure you that EPA work at the West Lake/Bridgeton NPL site will respect state authority while ensuring consistent site evaluations and appropriate allocation of federal and state responsibilities.

The Order your Office established in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County exercised State environmental-protection authorities which EPA considers complementary to our CERCLA powers. The State's lead in compelling the PRPs to control the subsurface smoldering event better enables this agency to compel the PRPs to isolate Bridgeton's SSE from West Lake. I believe that continuing to coordinate state and federal work will best accomplish our mutual goal to keep the public protected from environmental contaminants and nuisances, no matter their origin within the NPL site.

We will continue to coordinate and communicate with you and your colleagues in the State of Missouri as we work to accomplish our shared goal of protecting the health of all Missourians.

Sincerely,

Karl Brooks

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Learn more about the West Lake Landfill Site:

[http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm)

Learn more about EPA Region 7: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region7.html>

Connect with EPA Region 7 on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/eparegion7>

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